

M69 MIMUTES  
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• OF THE  
THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE

...Leaf River Baptist Association...

HELD WITH

...Cedar Grove Church...

GREEN COUNTY, MISS.

October, 17, 18 and 19, 1903.

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OFFICERS.

Alexander Breland, Moderator.....	Kittrell, Miss.
J. L. Davis, Clerk and Treasurer.....	Beaumont, Miss.

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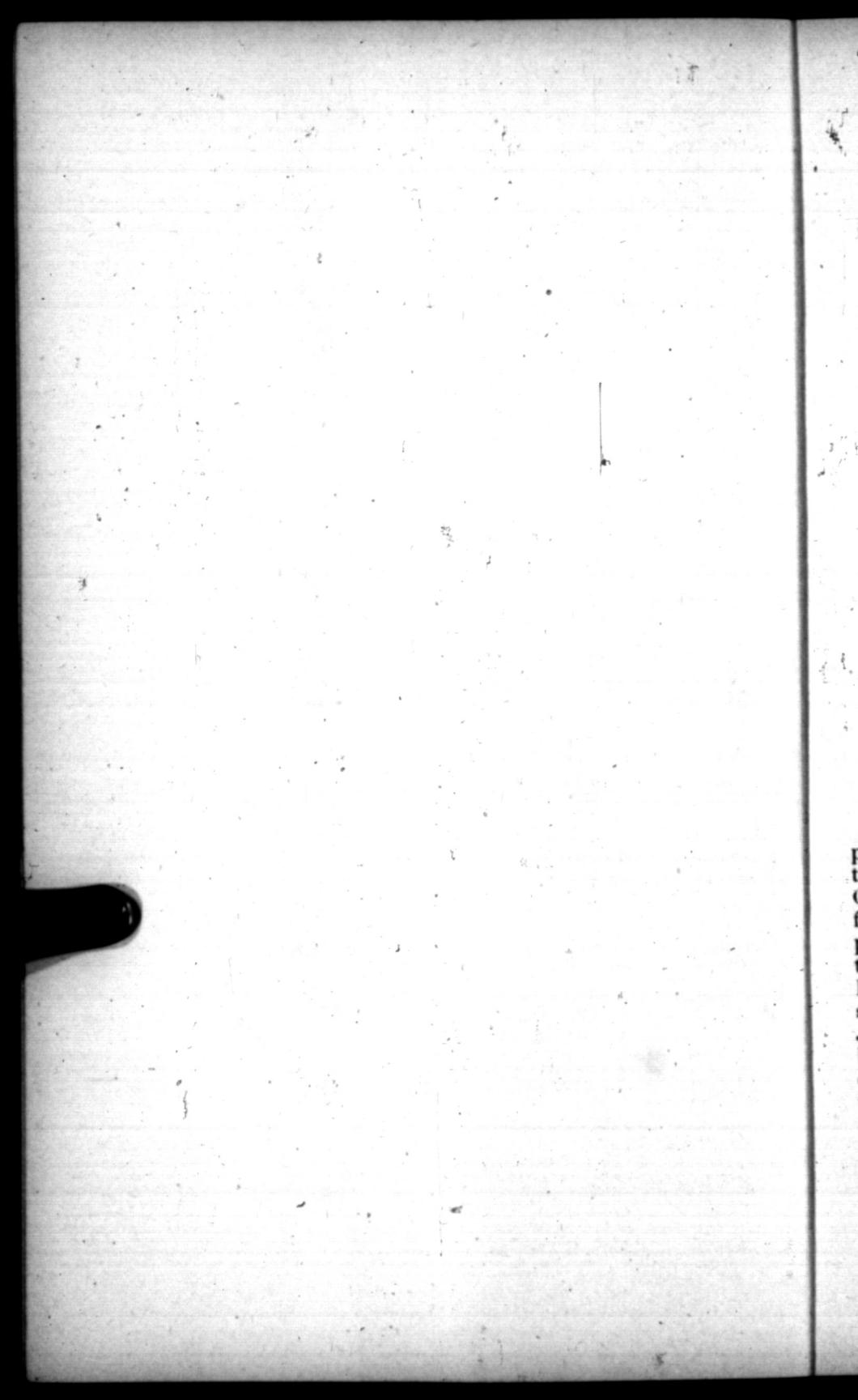
ORDAINED MINISTERS.

ELDER ALEXANDER BRELAND.....	Kittrell, Miss.
ELDER P. G. HILLMAN.....	Kittrell, Miss.
ELDER J. P. GRIFFIN.....	Pearce, Ala.
ELDER D. B. BOOTH.....	Mullett, Miss.
ELDER C. M. BRELAND.....	Merrill, Miss.
ELDER R. B. LEE.....	McLain, Miss.
ELDER M. BRISCOE.....	Leaksville, Miss.
ELDER JEFF LOTT.....	Lucedale, Miss.

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LICENTIATES.

C. W. HARVISON,	E. E. ROBERTS,
W. W. WALLY.	



# **MINUTES**

OF THE

## **LEAF RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.**

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### **FIRST DAYS SESSION.**

In obedience of the will of God and by previous appointment of the Brethren the Leaf River Baptist Association convened today, Oct. 17th A. D. 1903, with Cedar Grove church, Greene county, Miss. The weather was fine. The Brethren met early with cheerful faces and passed brotherly greetings one with another, and everything seemed to indicate a good meeting. At 11 o'clock Elder Alex Breland opened the services by reading the scriptures and singing praises and prayer offered by Elder J. P. Merritt and the introductory sermon was preached by Rev. D. B. Booth using for a text the twentieth verse of the twenty-eighth chapter of the gospel by Matthew, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world, and spoke at length with marked ability and to the satisfaction of his hearers.

Recess given for one hour and we partook of a good dinner given by the good people of the Cedar Grove community and the delegates assembled in the house and El-

der Alex Breland was called to the chair as Moderator pro tem. A song of praise was sung and prayer offered by Brother J. D. Harrison and the body declared in order for business.

Brothers C. L. Kittrell and J. E. Johnson appointed reading clerks; Brothers J. Kittrell, W. C. Roberts and J. F. Brewer appointed committee on finance. Committee on preaching, Brothers P. G. Hillman, D. F. Bradley and the deacons of the church.

Call for Church Letters—The following were presented and the names of the delegates enrolled:

Fair Hope—A. G. Sylvester, W. D. Pipkin.

Washington—D. F. Bradley, Alex. Ball, J. C. Hillman.

Macedonia—T. W. Brannan, Joel Wilford.

Fellowship—Wm. Neal, C. P. Smith, W. J. Neal.

Salem—C. W. Harvison, J. L. Davis.

Cedar Grove—J. Kittrell, G. W. Smith, S. R. Breland.

Mt. Pisgah—Albert Davis, Wm. Beard.

Rocky Creek—C. E. Davis, S. D. Hemstead.

New Hope—J. R. Parker, J. T. Vice.

Sweet Water—J. H. Brewer, G. W. Busby, Osborn Turner.

Buffalo—W. C. Roberts, R. B. Lee.

Sand Hill—J. F. Backstrom, J. C. Roberts.

Pleasant Hill—Gaines West, Josiah Byrd, J. F. Brewer.

Merrill—C. M. Breland

Lucedale—Jeff Lott, J. E. Johnson.

Call for Petitionary Letters—Brother A. W. Morgan presented one from Seminary church which were received and the right hand of fellowship was extended by the moderator.

Call for Correspondence—Brother J. T. Wiggins was received from the Southeastern Association and the right hand of fellowship was extended by the moderator, and an election was then held for officers to serve for the ensuing year and Brothers Merritt and Briscoe were appointed tellers to take the vote, and Elder Alex Breland was chosen moderator and J. L. Davis, clerk and treasurer.

Moved to Seat—Brothers J. D. Harrison and J. P. Merritt as correspondents.

Committee on preaching made their report.

#### APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

On Education—D. B. Booth, J. C. Roberts, John Vice, G. W. Smith.

On Missions—M. Briscoe, D. F. Bradley, Albert Davis.

On Sabbath Schools—J. E. Johnson, C. E. Davis, J. D. Harrison, J. R. Parker, Gaines West.

On Temperance—C. P. Smith, Josiah Byrd, Osborn Turner, C. M. Breland, G. W. Busby, A. G. Sylvester,

On Queries and Requests—D. F. Bradley, C. W. Harviston, Wm. Neal, J. E. Johnson, A. W. Morgan, J. D. Harrison,

On State of Religion—J. F. Brewer, T. W. Brannan, Jeff Lott, J. P. Merritt, D. B. Booth, J. R. Parker, S. R. Breland.

#### MESSENGERS APPOINTED TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS.

Ebenezer Association—A. W. Morgan to write, J. F. Brewer.

Southeastern Association—D. B. Booth to write, T. W. Brannan, Joel Wilford.

Red Creek Association—Jeff Lott to write, C. W. Harviston, J. L. Davis, J. C. Hillman.

Macedonia Association—Albert Davis to write, Wm. Beard, C. P. Smith.

Tallahalla Association—R. B. Lee to write, W. D. Pipkins, D. F. Bradley.

Moved to adjourn until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

### SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

**SABBATH SERVICES.**—Brothers Merritt, Harrison, Briscoe and Lott preached in order, as arranged by the preaching committee, to a large and attentive audience and we believe that they were guided by the inspiration of God and that the brethren were strengthened spiritually and that God was glorified.

### THIRD DAY'S SESSION.

The body met Monday morning, Oct. 19, 1903, pursuant to adjournment. A song of praise was sung and prayer offered by Elder R. B. Lee, and the body declared in order for business by the moderator.

Rules of Decorum read by the moderator.

Roll call and absentees noted.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES CALLED FOR.

Report on education received and marked (a), report on missions was received and marked (b), report on preaching received and marked (c), report on temperance received and marked (d), with amendments adopted, report on queries and requests received and marked (e), report on state of religion received and marked (f).

An amendment to Article 25 of the Rules of Decorum,

was adopted by a large majority and opposed by Brothers Jeff Lott, J. R. Parker, John T. Vice, C. E. Davis, Josiah Byrd, J. E. Johnson.

#### MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Moved to appoint Brothers Briscoe and J. Kittrell a committee on tribute of respect and forward to clerk.

Moved to forward by Elder Jeff Lott to General Association, ten dollars (\$10), for Foreign missions.

It was ordered that the Executive Board be appointed to serve for the year. Cedar Grove, G. W. Smith; Pleasant Hill, J. F. Brewer; Rocky Creek, D. B. Booth; Washington, D. F. Bradley; Macedonia, T. W. Brannan; Mt. Pisgah, Albert Davis; Fellowship, C. P. Smith; Salem, C. W. Harvison; Newhope, J. R. Parker; Sweetwater, P. G. Hillman; Buffalo, W. C. Roberts; Sand Hill, J. C. Roberts; Merrill, J. C. Byrd; Lucedale, J. E. Johnson; Fairhope, A. G. Sylvester; Seminary, A. W. Morgan; moderator and clerk be added to Board.

Corresponding letters read and adopted.

Moved to adjourn to meet with Washington church on Saturday before the Third Sunday in October 1904.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

On Education—We, your committee on Education, would ask leave to report that we regard education next in importance to religion, for by it the moral and intellectual powers are developed by which we are able to understand the gospel by which we are saved, it also serves to make us more useful in church and state and prepares us for the duties of life without which we would be unable to attend to such things as come before us, therefore let us take advantage. The opportunities afforded by the High Grade schools throughout the country and thereby prepare our children for the many duties and the responsibilities through life.

D. B. BOOTH, chairman.

On Sunday Schools—We, your committee, beg leave to submit the following:

Someone has said the Sunday school is the church at work; we are free to agree with this statement in the sense that the Sunday school, when properly conducted with the Bible for its text Book is a needful and fruitful branch of Church work and statistics show that more than nineteen million (19,000,000) people meet every Sunday to study God's word. We especially urge ministers of the association to put forth greater effort in Sunday schools as the

majority of our converts come from this branch of our work we would insist on each member of the church to come to the support of Ministers in this matter as we consider it a duty. We urge in the use of either helps that use only sound Baptist literature, such as is published by our Sunday School Board at Nashville, Tenn. We insist on reports on Sunday schools from all the churches in the Leaf River Association.

J. E. JOHNSON, Chairman.

**On Temperance**—We, your committee, beg leave to say that the great monster intemperance is, we fear, becoming more frequent in our midst, in our towns and country; do we hear the wails of mothers and the sighs of fathers and screams of sisters from the effects of the helox of the cup? We see the young man's character blighted, his usefulness gone, his life in debauchery and at last, his soul cast into hell. 90 per cent of these are caused by the influence of father or friend, by saying there is no harm in social drink. The awful curse of strong drink should concern us, as Christians, to raise our voices and strength for the removal of the awful monster from our midst, "Wine is a mocker and strong drink is dangerous and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise, Woe unto the man that puts the bottle to his neighbor's mouth to make him drunk," then let our churches and preachers raise their strength against this awful curse and let us pray that the time will soon come when the beverage drink of our land will be pure cool water; that the home, wife and life will no longer be blighted by this awful soul destroyer.

Respectfully, Submitted.

C. P. SMITH.

The following offered by Elder Jeff Lott:

Resolved that as an association we ask the State legislature of the state to give us a statutory law on prohibition.

**On Querries and Requests**—Would ask leave to make the following:

We find several churches requesting your Body to meet with them next year. We find no querries. We recommend that the Association meet with Washington church next year.

Respectfully submitted,

D. F. BRADLEY, Chairman.

#### REPORT ON MISSIONS.

We, your committee on missions, beg leave to submit the following report:

Not having time to refer to any statistics, we are un-

able to make an intelligent report and most earnestly urge that the committee on missions as well, will as the committees on all important subjects, be appointed as standing committees, that they may have time to get up such information and make such reports as will do justice to our denomination and its work.

This, however, has been a year of advance and awakening along all mission lines.

Brethren we should be witnesses of Christ at Jerusalem, (Associational missions). Judea, (State Missions). Samaria, (Domestic Missions), and the uttermost parts of the earth, (Foreign Missions).

~~Let us not play at Missionary longer.~~

Let us go down into our pockets and give of our substance and the first fruits of the land for the spread of the Gospel. Brother pastors let us not be too cowardly to preach missions and take up regular collections. We recommend that we pray God for the special guidance of his Spirit in more systematic methods of work. We recommend that the present plans of doing mission work be continued until better ones can be agreed upon. We especially recommend work in our own bounds as this south land is being fast developed and the Baptists must take their place in the front ranks of the procession or be left in the back ground as a byword of future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

M. BRISCOE.

We, your committee on preaching, ask leave to make the following report:

Elder J. P. Merritt, to-night at church, Brother Briscoe at 11 o'clock on Sunday, followed by Brothers Harrison and Jeff Lott, 2 o'clock in the evening also at the Stand, at 11 o'clock Monday morning. We recommend Elder M. Briscoe to preach the next introductory sermon and Elder P. G. Hillman his alternate.

#### MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, by this Association, that we believe that the Twenty-fifth Article of the rules of decorum is ineffectual and that it be so amended as to read as follows:

That no church shall be admitted into this Association which does not believe in and practice foot-washing as a church ordinance.

Submitted, D. B. BOOTH.

#### REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

We, your committee on deceased ministers, beg to submit the following report: Since we last met a· an associ-

ation, Our Heavenly father has seen fit in his providence to remove from our midst the following Brethren, who were our co-workers and fellow laborers in His Vinyard: Brother Robt. W. Prine and Thos. Havard Ordained Ministers, also Brother Robt. N. Breland, a licenciate. Brothers Prine and Havard had each been moderator of our body. Brother Prine, for about 12 years has been our moderator and during that time had rendered efficient and appreciative service which God blessed. Brother Havard too was one of the pioneer preachers, whose life like that of his colleague, had been one of faithful service to the cause of Christ, whereas, since God has seen best to call them from our society to the "General Assembly of the First Born."

Resolved that in Association assembled that we determine to set aside this page of our minutes sacred to thier memory and bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well.

Let us offer to the bereaved ones our tenderest sympathy and prayers. Let us also feel that the great loss we sustain is Heaven's eternal gain.

Respectfully submitted,  
M. BRISCOE, JOHNATHAN KITTRELL,  
Committee.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE LEAF RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.**

Received from the Association	\$34.50
Paid for printing 350 minutes	13.50
Paid clerk	15.00
Express	1.50
Postage and stationery	1.50
Remaining in Treasury	300.00

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE LEAF RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.**

Received during the year for mission purposes	\$90.00
Paid Brother Breland	27.00
Paid Brother Booth	54.00
Remaining in Treasury	9.00

All submitted,  
J. L. HAVIS, Treas.

On Finance—We, your committee, beg leave to report as follows: Received from churches for associational purposes \$38.20; foreign missions \$10; home missions \$33; remaining in Treasury \$300; total \$81.20. We have examined the Treasurer's report and find it correct.

J. KITTRELL.

Resolved that we have 400 copies of minutes printed for the churches and distribution and that the clerk superintend the printing of the same and the clerk be allowed the sum of fifteen dollars (\$15) for services as clerk and treasurer of the Association.

Resolved that we, the delegates and visitors of Leaf River association, tender our heartfelt thanks to the members of Cedar Grove church and community for their kind hospitality to us during our stay with them.

Respectfully submitted,

M. BRISCOE.

On State of Religion—This report adopted. Your committee beg leave to report as follows: We note accessions to some of our churches, but it is painful to us to say that there is great lack on our part in living for and following Jesus our Savior in his commands and examples of love. Brethren let us start from today to take teachings of the new testament, the word of Christ and his apostles. Brother ministers, one and all, we appeal to you for earnest effort in preaching the whole Bible in living prayer to God, in humble love to each other, that God bless our efforts for good in his name. May the Great Head of the church bring us together, of one mind in brotherly love. Brethren, let us stand firm and uphold the Banner of the King.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. BREWER, chairman.

Moved to adjourn to meet with Washington church, Greene county, on Saturday before the Third Sunday in October, 1804. We sung a song of praise to God, the closing prayer was offered by A. W. Morgan. We bid each other farewell trusting to meet again.

ALEX BRELAND, moderator, J. L. DAVIS, clerk.

The Leaf River association has done a good work this year. There is some accessions to the churches one new church has been admitted. There has been more mission work done than in the past, more preachers have cast their lot with us, there is greater interest shown with churches to take care of the body. The people of Cedar Grove exerted themselves to entertain the Association with all the kindness and hospitality that could be, toward taking care of us, in fact more than could have been expected. Now brethren let us redouble our diligence and go to work. Let us pray God's holy Spirit to guide us in our efforts. The Mission fields are ripe and need laborers and it is our duty to send them there and by the next meeting let us show better results than ever before.

J. L. D.

## CONSTITUTION.

We, the churches of Jesus Christ, having been regularly baptized upon a profession of faith, being convinced of the necessity and utility of a combination of churches of the same faith and order, do agree to unite ourselves into an association upon the following principles:

### ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st. We believe in one only true and living God; and that there is a trinity of persons in the Godhead; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; one and the same in essence, equal in power and glory.

2d. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by God; that they are of divine authority; that they contain the whole of the divine will and purposes as revealed to man, and that they are the only standard of divine truth and the only and sufficient rule of faith and practice.

3rd. We believe in the fall of Adam, and in him all his posterity; the total corruption of man's moral nature, and in man's inability to restore himself to the favor of God.

4th. We believe in the everlasting love of God in His people in the eternal and unconditional election of all His spiritual children to grace and glory.

5th. We believe by the everlasting covenant, grace is treasured up in Christ to insure the generation, sanctification, preservation and perseverance of all God's people so that none of them shall be finally lost.

6th. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the righteousness of Christ imputed to them.

7th. We believe that there is one mediator between God and man—the man Christ Jesus who by the sanctification he has made to law and justice in becoming an offering for sin, hath forever redeemed his people from under the curse of the law that they might be accepted in the beloved.

8th. We believe that good works are not meritorious that they are the fruits of faith and follow after justification; and that it is the duty of all believers to perform them from a principle of love.

9th. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, and the happiness of the righteousness and punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

10th. We believe that foot washing is an example practiced by Christ and that it is a duty to practice it.

### GOSPEL ORDER.

1st. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful persons who have given themselves to the Lord and to one another in brotherly covenant to keep a Godly discipline agreeable to the New Testament.

2d. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only head and law-giver of His church, and the government is with the body, the church, and is equally the right and privilege of each member thereof.

3rd. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are gospel ordinances, appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in His church until His second coming.

5th. We believe that immersion only is baptism, and that believers in Christ are the only proper subjects.

5th. We believe nothing but regularly baptised church members have a right to partake of the Lord's Supper.

6th. We believe that it is the duty and privilege of all believers to make a public profession of their faith, to submit to the ordinance of the gospel, and to give themselves as members of the visible church.

7th. We believe it to be the duty of every church to expel from her communion every member that is immoral in conduct or that holds doctrine contrary to the scriptures.

#### RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. This association shall be composed of delegates chosen by the churches to which they respectfully belong, and shall be styled the Leaf River Baptist Association.

2d. Such delegates shall be members in good standing, and no member under church censure shall be allowed a seat in the association.

3rd. They shall produce letters certifying to their appointment by their respective churches, and stating the number baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated, and deceased during the preceding associational year, with the total number of fellowship and such other statistical matters as the association may direct.

4th. This association shall have a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer who shall be chosen annually by a majority of the members present; said Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer shall be elected by ballot and shall fill their respective places, if present, at the succeeding association until a new election takes place, and while in office shall discharge the duties ordinarily incident to those offices.

5th. If new churches desire to be admitted into this association, they shall petition by letter and delegates, and if orthodox and orderly shall be received, and the Moderator shall recognize them by giving their delegates the right hand of fellowship in behalf of the body.

6th. Each church shall have three delegates, and no more, who shall be entitled to seats in the body and to vote. All ministers of the same faith and order are invited to seat with us, to aid us in counsel.

7th. The association shall neither answer or debate any query on gospel doctrine, except it be to merely explain the articles of faith of this association.

8th. Every motion made and seconded shall be reduced to writing if requested by any member, and shall be considered by the association except it be withdrawn by the mover before discussion.

9th. Motion made and lost shall not be recorded in the minutes unless so ordered at the time.

10th. If any proposition or motion under debate contains two or more points, it shall be divided at the request of any member, and the vote taken on each point separately.

11th. Only one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the moderator. He shall confine himself to the subject properly in debate, cast no reflection on the association or any member thereof, and shall not be interrupted while speaking.

12th. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the association.

13th. The moderator shall have the privilege of speaking on any subject in debate, the chair being previously filled. He shall rise from his seat and put the question to the body.

14th. The moderator shall decide questions of order, but appeal from such decisions may be taken to the whole which shall decide without debate.

15th. A majority of the members present shall be necessary to carry any motion or proposition and the moderator shall vote as other members when the vote is taken.

16th. Committees shall be nominated by the moderator, subject to the approval of the association.

17th. There shall be no talking or whispering while a brother is speaking.

18th. No brother shall finally depart from the association without leave of the body.

19th. The names of the delegates shall be enrolled by the clerk and called over when thought necessary.

20th. The minutes shall be read, carefully corrected and signed by the moderator and clerk before the association arises.

21st A motion for final adjournment shall be constructed to involve the previous reading and adjustment of the minutes.

22d. The association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

23rd. Immediately after the organization of the association the Rules of Order shall be read from the chair.

24th. The foregoing shall be subject to alteration or amendment at any regular meeting of the association.

25th. No church shall be admitted into this association which does not believe in, and practice foot-washing as a church ordinance.

#### FORM OF LETTER.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

The regular Baptist Church at ..... (here insert name of church) to Leaf River Association, Greeting:

Dear BRETHREN:—We again prepare to meet you by letter and by delegates, and for this purpose have chosen our beloved brethren.....

to all with you in council, to whom we refer you for any information not contained in our statistical table, which is as follows:

Baptized ..... ; received by letter ..... ; restored ..... ; dismissed by letter ..... ; excommunicated ..... ; deceased ..... ; total in fellowship ..... ; number of copies of minutes ..... ; we send for associational purposes \$.... ; for home missions \$.... ; our supply is ..... ; time of meeting is ..... ; ordained ministers ..... ; licentiates ..... ; our postoffice is .....  
Remarks.

# STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches	Delegates	Pastors	Postoffice	County	Amount of Expenses	
					No. Minutes	Total in Pcts. of Membership
Washington	D. F. Bradley, Alex Ball, J. C. Hillman	J. D. Harrison	Kittrell	Green 3	3	167
New Hope	J. T. Vice, J. R. Parker	Jeff Lott	Howell	Jackson	1	30 \$ 3.00
Mt. Pisgah	Wm. Beard, Albert Davis, Luke Lott	J. A. Easley	Esho	Alabama	1	49 15
Sweet Water	Osborn Turner, J. H. Brewer, G. W. Busby	M. Briscoe	Leaksville	Greene	2	27 15
Cedar Grove	J. Kittrell, G. W. Smith, S. R. Breland	J. D. Harrison	Jonathan	Greene	1	97 30
Salem	C. W. Harvison, J. L. Davis	M. Briscoe	McLain	Greene	1	50 20
Sand Hill	D. F. Backstrom, J. C. Roberts	P. B. H. Robinson	Janett	Greene	3	28 10
Merrill	C. M. Breland	J. D. Harrison	Merrill	Greene	1	80 15
Pleasant Hill	Gaines West, Josiah Byrd, J. F. Brewer	P. B. H. Robinson	Janett	Greene	1	22 10
Lucedale	Jeff Lott, J. E. Johnson	J. E. Johnson	Luedale	Greene	7 1	64 30
Rocky Creek	C. E. Davis, S. D. Hemstead	Alex Breland	Mullett	Greene	2 2	67 30
Fair Hope	W. D. Pipkins, A. G. Sylvester	D. B. Booth	Beaumont	Perry	6 1	4 106 25
Buffalo	R. B. Lee, W. C. Roberts	D. B. Booth	Melain	Perry	2 1	2 65 20
Macedonia	T. W. Brannan, Joel Wilford	P. G. Hillman	Brushy	Greene	1 1	26 15
Fellowship Seminary	C. P. Smith, Wm. Neal, W. J. Neal	J. P. Merritt	Adamsville	Greene	2 1	37 10
Enon	A. W. Morgan	Hintonville	Perry	Greene	15 10	2 50
Oak Grove	Not Represented				27 10	
					45 30 4 18 8 12 927	295 838 20
						Total

8

38.20 43. —

81.20

